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Honors World History

Primary Sources

Merchant and Trade Questions

(Question: 1)

“This dishonesty leads on the one hand to fraud and the adulteration of goods, and on the other to delay in payments which diminish profits because capital remains idle during the interval.”(Page: 123) The Muslims supported trade by participating in it, and trading goods with other countries. Traders are fake, dishonest and only care about the profit they make. Traders influence customers to get products that will help them. They complement the product on the customer to force the costumer on buying the product.

(Question: 2)

The Christian and the Chinese had different views on trading. Christians were smart when it came to trading. Many used different strategies like, buying and selling goods to gain logic about merchants. Christians wanted to be prepared for every one of their trading deals. Godric would “wont to wander with small wares around the villages and farmsteads of his own neighborhood; but, in process of time, he gradually associated himself by compact with city merchants.”(Page: 125) On the other hand, looking at the Chinese and their way of trading was surprising in a way. The Chinese were mainly concerned about the money aspect of trading. They weren’t preparing themselves as much as the Christians. The Chinese weren’t as involved in the particulars in trade. These were some of the differences between the way Christians and Chinese looked at trading.

(Question: 3)

When it came trading and religion, Christians tried to interlock both subjects and combine them. Christians would trade and keep their religion a big part of trading in positive ways. Christians were looking for ways to trade and give to the less fortunate. On the other hand, the Muslims were greedy and selfish. “A further improvement in their conditions will lead to habits of luxury, resulting in extreme refinement in cooking and the preparation of food; in choosing rich clothing of the finest silk; in raising lofty mansions and castles furnishing them luxuriously, and so on.”(Page: 124) This just shows how the Muslims only cared about themselves and didn’t care about others. Muslims would want to benefit themselves when it came to trading. This included giving themselves the luxuries that I stated in my quote.

(Question: 4)

“Thus, having learned by frequent experience his wretchedness amid such dangers, he began to worship certain of the Saints with more ardent zeal, venerating and calling upon their shrines, and giving himself up wholehearted service to those holy names.”(Page: 126) Godric was a generous Saint, the complete opposite of others. He wasn’t as concerned about the money and how much better his life would get with the money he would earn. Godric was focused on doing good deeds as a kind merchant, which eventually led him to Sainthood. To combine Sainthood and trading, Godric began spending time thinking of ways to donate to the poor and charities. Godric would also take many pilgrims which included a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the Holy Sepulture. These are some ways that shows how Godric was supporting the poor and trade.

(Question: 5)

Confucianism is a father, son relationship which benefits in a lot of different ways. This relationship helps the most when it comes to trade. Confucianism would lead China to become a stronger and independently ran government. Trade with China expanded into other countries like Europe. China was a colossal country when it came to population and inventions. Inventions were a huge part of trading because, other countries would want to use the inventions and turn it into their own. Other countries were aware of how trading was going to impact their country so much because of the importance of trading with a colossal country. “Money and profit are of great importance to men. They seek profit, and then suffer by it, yet they cannot forget it.”(Page: 128)

(Question: 6)

“Levying taxes on merchants is a bad policy. We should tax people according to their degree of wealth or poverty. Who says we cannot have good government!”(Page: 130) This shows how Europe was a firm believer in themselves by knowing that they could create a successful government. Europe was coming off of Chinese inventions, which would benefit them. Europe was becoming wealthier and stronger. They believed that one day they would be just as good, if not better than China.